

Here, another intern from the summer 2005 program uses a microscope to examine plant pathogens. Employees in APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine unit—another sponsor of the University of Maryland internship for 2006—do work like this at the agency's plant inspection stations.

#### Mail your completed package to:

Ms. Beatrice Jacobs  
USDA, APHIS, Office of the Administrator  
Civil Rights Enforcement and Compliance  
4700 River Road, Unit 92  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1234

In May, APHIS will notify you if you have been selected for this summer's Ag-DISCOVERY program. Meanwhile, if you'd like to learn more about APHIS or about UMD, visit these Web sites:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov>  
<http://www.umd.edu>

To find out more about career preparation in agriculture-related disciplines at UMD, contact this office:

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
(301) 314-7222  
<http://www.agnr.umd.edu>

#### For More Information

For additional information about the Ag-DISCOVERY program, contact

Ms. Terry Henson or  
Ms. Beatrice Jacobs  
USDA, APHIS, Office of the Administrator  
Civil Rights Enforcement and Compliance  
4700 River Road, Unit 92  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1234  
Phone: (301) 734-6312  
Fax: (301) 734-3698  
e-mail: [terry.a.henson@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:terry.a.henson@aphis.usda.gov)  
[beatrice.f.jacobs@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:beatrice.f.jacobs@aphis.usda.gov)

For more information about the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Umd, please contact

Leon Slaughter, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean of Academic Programs  
Phone: (301) 405-2078  
e-mail: [LS24@umail.umd.edu](mailto:LS24@umail.umd.edu)

John A. Doerr, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean of Academic Programs  
Phone: (301) 405-7761  
e-mail: [jadoerr@umd.edu](mailto:jadoerr@umd.edu)



#### The University of Maryland

UMd is a land-grant institution founded in 1856 and located in College Park, MD, just outside Washington, DC. The 1,250-acre campus is home to just over 25,000 undergraduate students, 32 percent of whom are minorities. A nationally recognized leader in engineering and computer science with historic strengths in agriculture-related biological sciences, UMD provides a high-quality education in numerous fields of study. Maryland offers bachelor's degrees in 111 fields (including plant science, entomology, horticulture and crop production, preveterinary medicine, and wildlife ecology and management) and graduate degrees in 96 specialties.

The university's own mission statement emphasizes its continuing commitment to engaging "in outreach and collaborative partnerships with the greater community by extending the scholarly reach of [its] campus." UMD's participation as the host for the summer 2006 Ag-DISCOVERY program demonstrates this commitment in action.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Issued April 2006



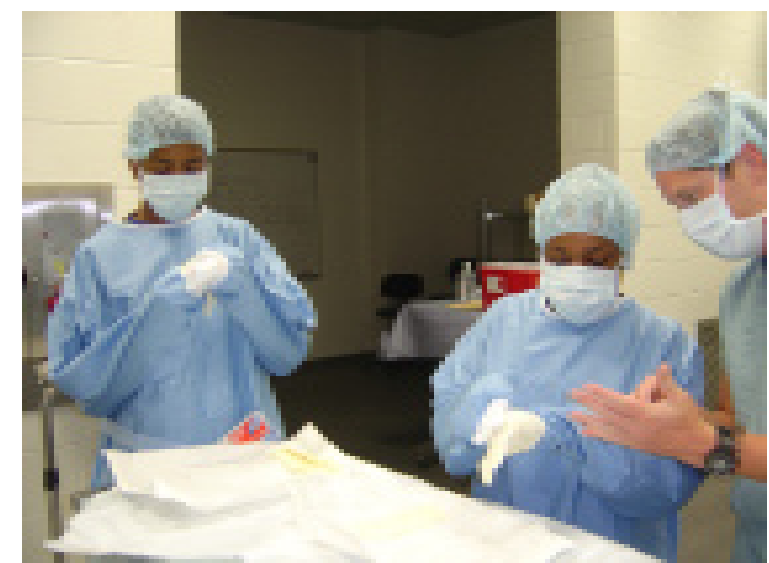
United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

APHIS 10-05-013

## Ag-DISCOVERY: Protecting Plants and Animals

July 9–July 21, 2006





What Is Ag-DISCOVERY?

Ag-DISCOVERY is an outreach program to help teenagers learn about careers in plant and animal science and wildlife management. The program allows students to live on a college campus and learn about science from university professors and practicing entomologists, plant pathologists, wildlife biologists, and veterinarians working for the U.S. Government. This 2-week summer boarding program for 2006 targets students 14–17 years of age who are interested in learning more about protecting plants and animals. Students chosen to participate in Ag-DISCOVERY will gain experience through hands-on labs, workshops, and field trips. Students will also participate in character- and team-building activities and diversity workshops.

Who Is Sponsoring the Ag-DISCOVERY Program?

The University of Maryland (UMd) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)—an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)—are partnering to sponsor Ag-DISCOVERY. Many of the Federal Government’s professional plant scientists, veterinarians, and wildlife biologists work for APHIS. APHIS is funding Ag-DISCOVERY, and UMd is hosting program participants on its campus in College Park, MD. The university will make a variety of plant and animal species available to Ag-DISCOVERY students. Every participant will work with plants and animals to discover the effects of insects and diseases on America’s agriculture. Dr. Leon Slaughter and Dr. John Doerr, from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will facilitate the program.

How Much Will It Cost?

Students selected for the 2006 Ag-DISCOVERY summer session will pay only the cost of their transportation to get from home to College Park for the start of the session on July 9 and back again at the end of the session on July 21. The cost of tuition, room and board, and lab supplies for the 2-week program will be covered by the following programs

in APHIS: Plant Protection and Quarantine, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, Animal Care, and Wildlife Services. APHIS’ Legislative and Public Affairs program will also contribute to the course content.



Although Federal laws do not protect all animals, those used in the entertainment industry (like this seal at a marine-mammal park in Florida) are covered by the Animal Welfare Act. Ag-DISCOVERY students in the UMd program will learn about animal welfare issues from veterinarians and inspectors in APHIS’ Animal Care program.



When scientists want to improve a plant by using genetic engineering, they have to follow safety rules set by APHIS’ Biotechnology Regulatory Services, one of the cosponsors of the 2006 Ag-DISCOVERY internship at the University of Maryland.



Managing the conflicts between wildlife and people is the main thrust of work done by APHIS’ Wildlife Services unit. Here, wildlife biologists prepare humane cage traps to capture problem wildlife and relocate the animals where they won’t cause problems for people.

How Do I Apply?

Students between the ages of 14 and 17 are eligible to apply for admission to Ag-DISCOVERY. *Note:* You must be at least 14 and no older than 17 as of May 31, 2006.

You must submit a complete application package to USDA–APHIS **before April 28, 2006**. Packages postmarked after that date will not be accepted.

Here’s what to put in your application package:

- A two-page essay entitled “What I’d Like To Know About Protecting Plants and Animals, and Why.” In the essay, include information on your



You can’t do Ag-DISCOVERY if you’re squeamish! Here, two students from the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University summer 2005 Ag-DISCOVERY class practice their dissection techniques. A third student holds a snail she found on the underside of a leaf cluster. Interns in the summer 2006 program at UMd will also work with animals in lab settings.

interests, hobbies, and plans for the future. Be sure to include your full name, age, home address, and home telephone number.

- Three character references—letters from people not related to you who know you well. At least one of the three references must come from a teacher or counselor.